

Deepika Darbari

Dr. Darbari is a Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist at the Children's National Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the George Washington University in Washington DC. Dr. Darbari studies complications of sickle cell disease with emphasis on pain. She has been conducting clinical and translational studies directed towards better understanding of mechanisms of sickle cell pain and its management using pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic integrative modalities such as acupuncture. Her research has contributed to understanding variability of pain experience in patients with sickle cell disease. Her team had described presence of altered brain connectivity in patients with sickle cell disease who needed frequent hospitalization for pain. She has also shown some of the risk factors for persistence of pain and opioid use after being cured of sickle cell disease by hematopoietic bone marrow transplant. She has published many peer reviewed papers on the subject. She has contributed to development of diagnostic criteria for acute and chronic pain in sickle cell disease. She has served as the chair of the non-patient reported outcomes of pain at the recent FDA/ American Society of Hematology (ASH) sickle cell disease endpoint workshop and has also represented ASH for amendment of CDC guidelines on opioid use in sickle cell disease.

